

REMARKS

Claim 1 was in the application and has been deleted. New claims 2-81 have been added by this amendment.

For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicant notes that the present invention is directed to a system for determining the optical properties of dental objects using an integrated system that includes a camera and a spectrophotometer; the camera and the spectrophotometer are integrated into a single system and thus may cooperatively work together to more desirably quantify the optical properties of teeth, such as by capturing an image of the tooth, software processing the image (such as to determine one or more regions in which to take a spectral measurement), and the measuring optical properties with the spectrophotometer. There are two sets of claims, 2-41, and 42-81, which parallel each other with the exception of the certain limitations regarding the software processing of the image. All claims call for generating an image of the dental object with the camera of the integrated system, software processing the image of the dental object, and generating optical characteristics data indicative of the optical characteristics of the dental object in one or more of regions of the dental object with the spectrophotometer of the integrated system. Applicant further notes that the dependent claims add further features and limitations that further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited references.

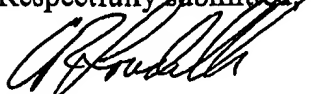
It is submitted that the prior art does not disclose or suggest such an integrated system (including a camera and a spectrophotometer) in order to capture an image of a dental object and a spectrophotometer to generate optical characteristics data of the dental object in such an integrated manner.

No new matter has been added.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment, Applicant's attorney requests an opportunity to discuss such questions with the Examiner by way of a telephone interview. It is submitted that the foregoing amendments should position the application in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0251.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan R. Loudermilk

Registration No. 32,788

Attorney for Applicant(s)

June 20, 2001

10950 North Blaney Ave., Suite B

Cupertino, CA 95014

408-342-1866